

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2007. Currently, claims 49-104 are pending. Claims 48-88 are allowed, and Applicants have cancelled claims 89-104, leaving allowed claims 48-88 pending.

I. Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Claims 89-97 and 101-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 89-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,554,772 ("*Nakamura*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,992,443 ("*Crutchfield*"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,371,920 ("*Kamimoto*"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,782,767 ("*Pretlow*").

II. Allowable subject matter

Claims 49-88 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 89-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) under the combined teachings Nakamura, Crutchfield, Kamimoto, and Pretlow and in part under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant has cancelled claims 89-104 to expedite prosecution. Thus, Applicant submits that the rejections are now moot and that the application be allowed with claims 48-88.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

It is noted that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted 9/17/2004 has not been returned as initialed and signed, indicating consideration by the Examiner. Initialed copies of such Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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